

PATENT
409475-11

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: SHUSTER et al.

Serial No.: 09/773,298

Filed: January 31, 2001

Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR
CONDUCTING DOMAIN NAME SERVICE

Art Unit: 3625

Examiner: Mark Fadok

1-31-2000

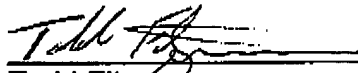
CORRESPONDENCE

VIA FACSIMILE

Mr. Fadok:

Pursuant to our telephone conversation on August 18, 2005 and in an effort to expedite a notice of allowance, please enter an Examiner's Amendment canceling Claims 28 and 38 and amending Claims 20 and 30 to remove the phrase "in a zone file." For your convenience, proposed amendments to Claims 20 and 30 are attached hereto. Please feel free to contact me if you have any further questions.

Date: August 20, 2005


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20. (Currently amended) A method for assigning domain names configured according to a domain name system, each domain name including a user-selected subdomain label to the left of a fully-qualified domain name, the method comprising:

obtaining fully-qualified domain names associated with different corresponding host IP addresses in resource records of domain name servers from a plurality of domain name holders;

communicating with the domain name servers to effect reassignment of name service records for the fully-qualified domain names, whereby the fully-qualified domain names are pointed to at least one IP address of a subdomain management system;

maintaining a database of subdomain labels for the fully-qualified domain names, wherein each subdomain label is not associated with an IP address ~~in a zone file~~ of any higher-level domain, the database accessible by the subdomain management system and relating each subdomain label to a user-determinable address for content and to at least one of the fully-qualified domain names; and

providing an interface interoperable with the database to relate user-selected subdomain labels with user-selected ones of the fully-qualified domain names to provide domain names, each domain name comprising a fully-qualified domain name and at least one subdomain label to the left of the fully-qualified domain name.

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30. (Currently amended) A system for aggregating a plurality of fully-qualified domain names for independent licensing of subdomain labels related thereto, comprising:

a subdomain management system, comprising a server connected to a network and operably associated with a database and with a memory, the memory holding instructions for:

obtaining fully-qualified domain names associated with different corresponding host IP addresses in resource records of domain name servers from a plurality of domain name holders;

communicating with the domain name servers to effect reassignment of name service records for the fully-qualified domain names, whereby the fully-qualified domain names are pointed to at least one IP address of the subdomain management system;

maintaining the database of subdomain labels for the fully-qualified domain names, wherein each subdomain label is not associated with an IP address in a zone file of any higher-level domain, the database relating each subdomain label to a user-determinable address for content and to at least one of the fully-qualified domain names; and

providing an interface interoperable with the database to relate user-selected subdomain labels with user-selected ones of the fully-qualified domain names to provide domain names, each domain name comprising a fully-qualified domain name and at least one subdomain label to the left of the fully-qualified domain name.

30. (Currently amended) A system for aggregating a plurality of fully-qualified domain names for independent licensing of subdomain labels related thereto, comprising:

a subdomain management system, comprising a server connected to a network and operably associated with a database and with a memory, the memory holding instructions for:

obtaining fully-qualified domain names associated with different corresponding host IP addresses in resource records of domain name servers from a plurality of domain name holders;

communicating with the domain name servers to effect reassignment of name service records for the fully-qualified domain names, whereby the fully-qualified domain names are pointed to at least one IP address of the subdomain management system;

maintaining the database of subdomain labels for the fully-qualified domain names, wherein each subdomain label is not associated with an IP address in a zone file of any higher-level domain, the database relating each subdomain label to a user-determinable address for content and to at least one of the fully-qualified domain names; and

providing an interface interoperable with the database to relate user-selected subdomain labels with user-selected ones of the fully-qualified domain names to provide domain names, each domain name comprising a fully-qualified domain name and at least one subdomain label to the left of the fully-qualified domain name.

21 ✓ 31. (Previously presented) The system of Claim 30, wherein the instructions further comprise receiving a request for content, comprising a domain name configured in accordance with the domain name system, the domain name comprising a fully-qualified domain name and at least one subdomain label to the left of the fully-qualified domain name.